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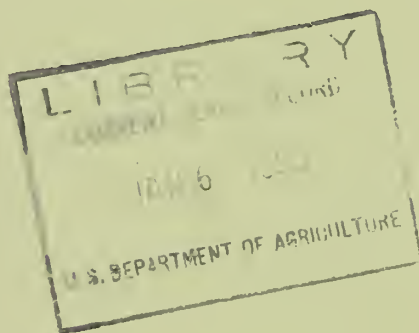
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# FEDERAL-STATE COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS and IRRIGATION WATER FORECASTS

for  
**ARIZONA**  
March 15, 1949



by  
Division of Irrigation, Soil Conservation Service  
United States Department of Agriculture

Data included in this report were obtained by the agency named above in cooperation with the Federal, State, and local organizations listed on the last page of this report.



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SNOW SURVEYS AND IRRIGATION WATER FORECASTS  
FOR  
ARIZONA

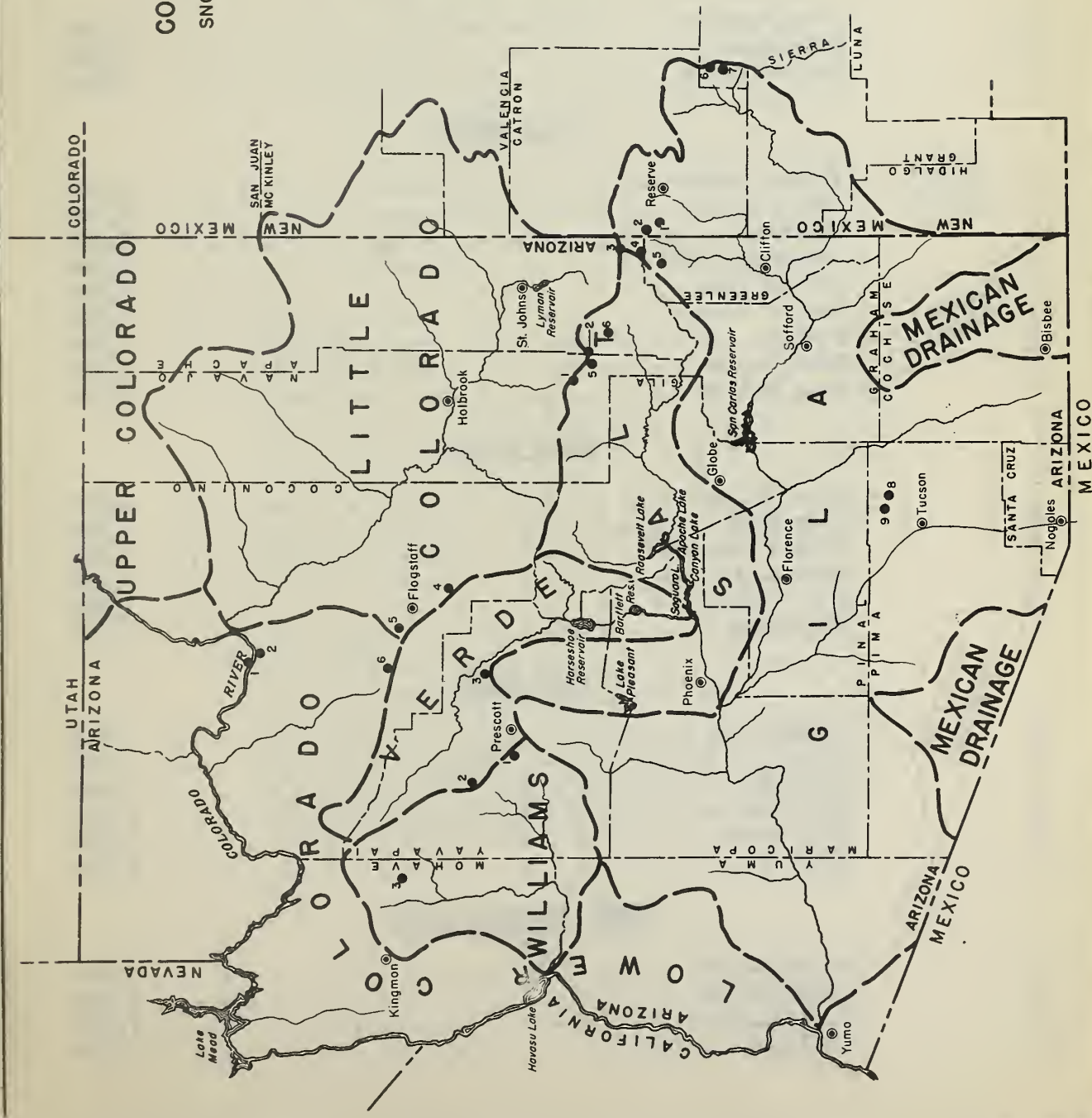
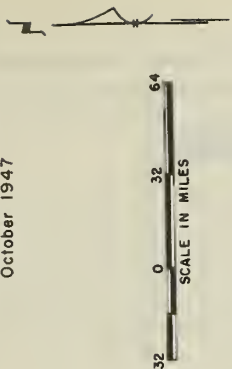
Report Prepared  
by  
Clyde Houston-Irrigation Engineer

Division of Irrigation  
Soil Conservation Service  
Reno, Nevada



# ARIZONA COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS SNOW COURSES AND DRAINAGE BASINS

October 1947





# INDEX TO SNOW COURSES

NUMBER	NAME	ELEVATION
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## LITTLE COLORADO RIVER

1.	Forest Dale . . . . .	6,000
2.	McNary . . . . .	7,200
3.	Nutrioso . . . . .	8,500
4.	Mormon Lake . . . . .	7,350
5.	Fort Valley . . . . .	7,350

## WILLIAMS RIVER

1.	Iron Springs . . . . .	6,200
2.	Camp Wood . . . . .	5,700
3.	Willow Ranch . . . . .	5,000

## GILA RIVER

1.	(N.M.) Frisco Divide . . . . .	8,000
2.	(N.M.) State Line . . . . .	8,000
3.	Nutrioso . . . . .	8,500
4.	Coronado Trail . . . . .	8,000
5.	Beaver Head . . . . .	8,000
6.	(N.M.) Taylor Creek . . . . .	7,850
7.	(N.M.) Inman . . . . .	7,800
8.	Rose Canyon . . . . .	7,300
9.	Bear Wallow . . . . .	8,100

## VERDE RIVER

1.	Iron Springs . . . . .	6,200
2.	Camp Wood . . . . .	5,700
3.	Mingus Mountain . . . . .	7,100
4.	Mormon Lake . . . . .	7,350
5.	Fort Valley . . . . .	7,350
6.	Chalender . . . . .	7,100

## SALT RIVER

1.	Forest Dale . . . . .	6,000
2.	McNary . . . . .	7,200
3.	Nutrioso . . . . .	8,500
4.	Coronado Trail . . . . .	8,000
5.	Milk Ranch . . . . .	7,000
6.	McKay . . . . .	8,250

## LOWER COLORADO RIVER

1.	Bright Angel . . . . .	8,400
2.	Grand Canyon . . . . .	7,500
5.	Fort Valley . . . . .	7,350
6.	Chalender . . . . .	7,100



## WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

### Arizona

March 15, 1949

\* \* \* \* \*  
\* March 15 snow surveys show excellent \*  
\* prospects for runoff from the main \*  
\* snow fed streams in Arizona during the \*  
\* 1949 season. Melting snow during the \*  
\* current snow season has increased re- \*  
\* servoir storage over 400 per cent. \*  
\* Continued storms are needed to produce \*  
\* necessary hold over storage. Soil \*  
\* mantle at higher elevations is satur- \*  
\* ated while irrigated valleys are dry. \*  
\* \* \* \* \*

Precipitation Since February 1, precipitation throughout the upper watersheds of Arizona is below normal. On the mountains of Little Colorado, Verde and Salt River Watersheds, precipitation since February 1, is about 50 percent of normal while Gila River Watershed has received only about 30 percent. Soil moisture conditions in the mountains is excellent while the irrigated valleys are dry.

Snow Cover Although recent precipitation has been subnormal, snow water content remaining from the heavy winter storms continued high. Snow surveys on Little Colorado and Gila show about 250 percent of normal snow stored water while on the Salt it was about 200 percent. Snow cover on the Verde, Williams and other snow fed streams was much better than average.



Runoff Runoff as measured at key stations continues high. Saturated soil at the higher elevations guarantees a high water yield from future snow melt. During February, Verde River discharged about 190 percent of the median while Salt River was about 170 percent. Gila River was about 390 percent with future prospects very good for runoff from the residual snow cover.

Reservoir Storage Although reservoir storage in Arizona has made an excellent recovery from the record low of last fall, additional storms are necessary to furnish badly needed hold over storage. San Carlos Reservoir, which was empty on October 1, 1948, contained about 242,000 acre feet on March 15, 1949. This is about the same as the past ten year average and the greatest amount stored on this date since 1944. Salt River Reservoirs contain about twice the amount of water stored last fall but only about 50 percent of the past ten year average. Verde River reservoirs appear to be in excellent condition. Horseshoe spilled for the first time and Bartlett, storing about 50 percent of capacity on March 15, will continue to receive high inflow from heavy snow melt. Lake Pleasant with 28,000 acre feet contained the greatest storage on this date since 1942. Lake Mead with 17,950,000 acre feet contained about 1,000,000 acre feet less than last year on this date.



STATUS OF RESERVOIR STORAGE, March 15, 1949

BASIN and STREAM	RESERVOIR	USABLE	THOUSANDS ACRE FEET IN STORAGE about Mar. 15,				
		CAPACITY (Thous. A.F.)	1949	1948	1947	1946	10-yr. avg. 1938 - 1947
Agua Fria	Lake Pleasant	179	28	1	3	4	31
Colorado	Lake Havasu	688	571	593	621	616	555
Colorado	Lake Mead	27,935	17,950	18,888	16,431	18,056	19,360
Gila	San Carlos	1,200	242	6	18	29	249
Salt	Salt River <sup>c</sup>	1,771	467	247	432	671	866
Verde	Bartlett	179	92	17	24	2	82
Verde	Horseshoe	67	64	1	10	9	

a - Average for years 1939 - 1947

b - Average for years 1941 - 1947

c - Includes Roosevelt, Apache, Saguaro and Canyon Lakes

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000	1001	1002	1003	1004	1005	1006	1007	1008	1009	1010	1011	1012	1013	1014	1015	1016	1017	1018	1019	1020	1021	1022	1023	1024	1025	1026	1027	1028	1029	1030	1031	1032	1033	1034	1035	1036	1037	1038	1039	1040	1041	1042	1043	1044	1045	1046	1047	1048	1049	1050	1051	1052	1053	1054	1055	1056	1057	1058	1059	1060	1061	1062	1063	1064	1065	1066	1067	1068	1069	1070	1071	1072	1073	1074	1075	1076	1077	1078	1079	1080	1081	1082	1083	1084	1085	1086	1087	1088	1089	1090	1091	1092	1093	1094	1095	1096	1097	1098	1099	1100	1101	1102	1103	1104	1105	1106	1107	1108	1109	1110	1111	1112	1113	1114	1115	1116	1117	1118	1119	1120	1121	1122	1123	1124	1125	1126	1127	1128	1129	1130	1131	1132	1133	1134	1135	1136	1137	1138	1139	1140	1141	1142	1143	1144	1145	1146	1147	1148	1149	1150	1151	1152	1153	1154	1155	1156	1157	1158	1159	1160	1161	1162	1163	1164	1165	1166	1167	1168	1169	1170	1171	1172	1173	1174	1175	1176	1177	1178	1179	1180	1181	1182	1183	1184	1185	1186	1187	1188	1189	1190	1191	1192	1193	1194	1195	1196	1197	1198	1199	1200	1201	1202	1203	1204	1205	1206	1207	1208	1209	1210	1211	1212	1213	1214	1215	1216	1217	1218	1219	1220	1221	12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## ARIZONA SNOG! SURVEYS

DRAINAGE BASIN and SNOW COURSE		LOCATION		SNOW COVER MEASUREMENTS									
				Number	Sec. Twp. Rge. Elev.	Date of Survey	Snow Depth (inches)	Water Content (inches)			Past Record		
								1949	1948	1947	Years of Record	Av. Water Content (inches)	
LITTLE COLORADO RIVER													
Forest Dale	1	2	9N 21E	6000	3/15	0	0	1.3	0	9	0.4		
McNary	2	14	8N 23E	7200	3/15	0	0	4.1	0	9	1.6		
Nutrioso	3	23	6N 30E	8500	3/13	21.6	8.8	4.8	0	9	1.5		
Mormon Lake	4	13	18N 8E	7350	3/15	39.8	16.6	11.4	0	2	5.7		
Fort Valley	5	22	22N 6E	7350	3/15	21.5	8.8	2.0	0	2	1.0		
WILLIAMS RIVER													
Iron Springs	1	22	14N 3W	6200	3/12	6.4	3.4	0	0	3	0		
Camp Wood	2	3	16N 6W	5700	3/15	2.2	0.8	0	0	3	0.1		
Willow Ranch	3	16	21N 11W	5000		No Report		0	0	3	0		
GILA RIVER													
Frisco Divide*	1	31	6S 20W	8000	3/13	7.5	2.9	5.6	0	9	1.6		
State Line	2	6	6S 21W	8000	3/13	11.0	4.7	5.1	0	9	2.3		
Nutrioso	3	23	6N 30E	8500	3/13	14.4	5.4	4.8	0	9	1.5		
Coronado Trail	4	26	5N 30E	8000	3/13	21.6	8.8	6.1	0	9	3.0		
Beaver Head	5	13	4N 30E	8000	3/15	11.1	5.6	6.0	0	9	2.7		
Taylor Creek	6	20	10S 10W	7850		No Report		2.2	0	7	0.4		
Inman	7	6	11S 10W	7800		No Report		2.3	0	3	0.8		
Rose Canyon	8	15	12S 16E	7300	3/14	0	0	1.3	New Course				
Bear Wallow	9	6	12S 16E	8100	3/14	10.8	3.8	3.0	" "				



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[illegible]

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1. The first group of people who are not in the labor force are those who are not in the labor force for any reason. This group is the largest and is made up of people who are not in the labor force for any reason.

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ARIZONA SNOW SURVEYS MARCH 15, 1949

DRAINAGE BASIN and SNOW COURSE		LOCATION		SNOW COVER MEASUREMENTS								
				Number	Sec. Twp. Rge. Elev.	Date of Survey	Snow Depth (inches)	Water Content (inches)			Past Record	
								1949	1948	1947	Years of Record	Av. Water Content (inches)
VERDE RIVER												
1	Iron Springs	22	14N 3W	6200	3/12	6.4	3.4	0	0	3	0	
2	Camp Wood	3	16N 6W	5700	3/15	2.2	0.8	0	0	3	0.1	
3	Mingus Mountain	3	15N 2E	7100		No Report		2.3	0	2	1.2	
4	Mormon Lake	13	18N 8E	7350	3/15	39.8	16.6	11.4	0	2	5.7	
5	Fort Valley	22	22N 6E	7350	3/15	21.5	8.8	2.0	0	2	1.0	
6	Chalender	27	22N 3E	7100	3/15	20.7	8.4	4.2	0	2	2.1	
SALT RIVER												
1	Forest Dale	2	9N 21E	6000	3/15	0	0	1.3	0	9	0.4	
2	McNary	14	8N 23E	7200	3/15	0	0	4.1	0	9	1.6	
3	Nutriosio	23	6N 30E	8500	3/13	14.4	5.4	4.8	0	9	1.5	
4	Coronado Trail	26	5N 30E	8000	3/13	21.6	8.8	6.1	0	9	3.0	
5	Milk Ranch	28	8N 23E	7000	3/15	0	0	1.2	0	8	0.7	
LOWER COLORADO												
1	Bright Angel	34	33N 3E	8400	3/15	43.3	17.2	7.8	7.6	2	7.7	
2	Grand Canyon	21	30N 4E	7500	3/15	13.3	5.6	1.5	0	2	0.8	
5	Fort Valley	22	22N 6E	7350	3/15	21.5	8.8	2.0	0	2	1.0	
6	Chalender	27	22N 3E	7100	3/15	20.7	8.4	4.2	0	2	2.1	

\* Course revised 1948



# LIST OF SNOW SURVEYORS

<u>SNOW COURSE</u>	<u>SURVEYOR</u>
Forest Dale . . . . .	W. E. Fair
McNary . . . . .	W. E. Fair
Nutriosos . . . . .	R. L. Diggs
Mormon Lake . . . . .	M. F. Greaves
Fort Valley . . . . .	A. P. Loska
Iron Springs . . . . .	Ernest Saxby
Camp Wood . . . . .	Mrs. C.C. Merritt
Willow Ranch . . . . .	Tiny Miller
Frisco Divide . . . . .	Dean M. Earl
Coronado Trail. . . . .	R. L. Diggs
Beaver Head . . . . .	Jes Burke
Taylor Creek. . . . .	F.M. Inman
Inman . . . . .	F.M. Inman
Mingus Mountain . . . . .	Harold Linn
Chalender . . . . .	Schroeder & Rogers
Milk Ranch. . . . .	W. E. Fair
State Line. . . . .	Dean M. Earl
Rose Canyon . . . . .	Wm. Hughes
Bear Wallow . . . . .	Wm. Hughes
Bright Angel. . . . .	S. Brown & J. Brown
Grand Canyon. . . . .	Lauzon & Kennedy



The following organizations cooperate in the Arizona snow survey work:

STATE

Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station  
Reno, Nevada

FEDERAL

Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service  
    Apache Forest  
    Coconino Forest  
    Coronado Forest  
    Gila Forest  
    Kaibab Forest  
    Prescott Forest  
    Southwestern Forest and Range Expt.  
        Station, Fort Valley, Arizona  
Soil Conservation Service  
    Division of Irrigation

Department of Commerce  
Weather Bureau  
    Arizona Section

Department of Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
    Region III  
Geological Survey  
    Arizona District  
Indian Service  
    Fort Apache Reservation  
National Park Service  
    Grand Canyon National Park

Gila Water Commissioner  
Safford, Arizona

IRRIGATION PROJECTS

Salt River Valley Water Users Association  
Phoenix, Arizona

San Carlos Irrigation and Drainage District  
Coolidge, Arizona

Other organizations and individuals furnish valuable information for the snow survey reports. Their cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.

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*Chrysomelidae*